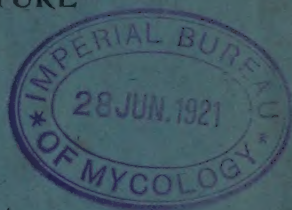


Butler.
CIRCULAR No. 11.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MYSORE STATE



KOLEROGA
OF THE
ARECA PALM



BANGALORE:
PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS
1915

KOLEROGA OF THE ARECA PALM.

THIS disease known as the Koleroga of the arecanut palm has been very prevalent in the malnad taluks of the Shimoga District and parts of the Kadur District. The disease had been so virulent in some parts that entire gardens had to be abandoned and even in moderately affected areas the loss of crop is not insignificant. It has been roughly estimated that about 4 lakhs of rupees are lost in this way on an average within the State and in years when the disease bursts out in an epidemic form, the loss may be estimated at double that amount. Remedial measures to check this disease have been engaging the attention of the Mysore Agricultural Department for the past six years, and have been attended with a very large amount of success. The best method of treatment found till now has been to spray the bunches in the month of June with Bordeaux mixture to which boiled resin has been added in the following proportions:—

Five pounds of copper sulphate dissolved in 12 gallons of water is poured into an equal quantity of lime water prepared by dissolving 5 pounds of quick lime. To the mixture is added one gallon of water in which 2 pounds of resin and one pound of soda or one half pound of soda ash have been boiled down to the consistency of castor oil. Further details regarding the method of treating may be had from a bulletin of this department. It is fairly simple to prepare the mixture and the cost of treatment per acre including the wages of the climber comes to about 8 rupees.

Summary of work done.—Beginning with a few trial experiments in 1908, the number of gardens treated rapidly rose to 91 in 1911 and since then the garden owners have been purchasing the sprayers for their use and treating their gardens successfully under the general supervision of the department. In this way 185 sprayers costing about 23 rupees each have been sold in various parts in

the affected area and during the last year chemicals sufficient to treat about 600 acres of land were supplied to the garden owners. In order to reach the owners nearer their homes and to facilitate the purchase of sprayers and materials to them, Depots were opened in Talaguppe, Sagar, Kallurkatte, Tirthahalli, Agumbe and Koppa where materials were supplied for cash at cost price and where repairs and adjustments to the sprayers were made or the necessary instructions given by specially trained field-men stationed there. Besides this general demonstration work, experimental work as to the best and most economical method of combating this disease has been going on in the areca garden at Marthur in Sagar Taluk, where various mixtures in different proportions and combinations are being tried and their beneficial effects compared. In another garden in Agumbe in the Tirthahalli Taluk, experiments completely to suppress the appearance of the disease have up to the present given very favourable results and this work of stamping out the disease in isolated blocks has been extended to three other places, *viz.*, Mandiganasira and Karodi in the Tirthahalli Taluk and Hirethota in the Sagar Taluk. The experiments in these latter area are done on a co-operative basis with the owners of the gardens and the total area thus treated is about 23 acres with 13,000 trees. Besides this general work of combating this disease, work as regards the general cultivation of the arecanut has been started in the Marthur Farm where the sowing of sunn hemp, cow pea, dainchi and crotalaria striata to be subsequently ploughed in to form manure is being tried. The use of lime and artificial manures such as honge cake etc., has also been taken up but it will be some time before any conclusions can be arrived at. So also the work of selecting different types of arecanut for seed with a view to obtaining disease-resistant varieties or improving their size, yield or both which has recently been taken up will also require some time to yield results. Preliminary experiments made with regard to drying the arecanuts in a closed chamber by means of hot air have been fairly satisfactory and will be tried on a larger scale in the immediate future.

Work in the future.—The work has thus advanced to a stage from which several independent lines of investigation have to be started and during the coming years while a certain amount of attention will be given to general supervision over and extension of demonstration

work, greater attention will be given to the experiments for stamping out the disease in additional areas in the affected centres and for the general improvement of the cultivation of the arecanut and its preparation for the market. The aim of the staff employed will be to get into close contact with the raiyats and by a careful study of their difficulties in the matter try to improve or alter the methods of work. Any difficulties or suggestions in the matter of spraying or the stocking of materials as well as general questions on the cultivation of the arecanut addressed to the Director of Agriculture in Mysore, Bangalore, will be carefully considered.



